

with their employer. Clearly, the experience of these workers in the US/CNMI is not representative of a work experience anywhere else in America. According to Mr. Shields, "toiling 12 hours a day, seven days a week, without any of the worker protections Americans are guaranteed, is tragically common."

Congress has the power and the duty to ensure that basic fundamental principals of labor and immigration law are adhered to throughout the United States and its territories. I urge my colleagues to read this column and decide for themselves how they would like to see the "Second battle of Saipan" play out. I think you'll agree that if our efforts to apply federal labor and immigration controls to the US/CNMI are successful, as Mr. Shields notes, "the United States and humanity will win."

[From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, May 18, 1998]

"MADE IN THE USA" IS AT HEART OF THE
SECOND BATTLE OF SAIPAN
(By Mark Shields)

For Americans of a certain age, Saipan will forever remain that Pacific Island battle where, during 25 days of hell in the summer of 1944, the U.S. Marines captured 47 square miles of strategic real estate. The price was high. U.S. combat casualties numbered 16,612, including 3,225 Americans killed in action.

For the Japanese, the numbers are still staggering: 23,811 known soldiers dead added to an overwhelming majority of the 18,000 Japanese civilians on the island who chose death over surrender by jumping off the cliffs into the sea. That mass Japanese civilian suicide helped convince the Truman administration that Japan would never surrender and that the use of atomic weapons would actually save Japanese and American lives.

Today, Saipan is the capital of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), a chain of 14 islands in the North Pacific. The approximately 28,000 indigenous people of the CNMI, following their own free vote, are all U.S. citizens. But the CNMI was granted local authority over immigration to the islands and over permitting island employers to pay workers at a lower minimum wage than that of the United States. Still, any clothing manufacturer in Saipan is entitled to sew the "Made in the U.S.A." label in every garment. And all such garments can enter the U.S. mainland market free of tariffs and quotas.

This has led directly to the "Second Battle of Saipan." The island has turned into a legalized sweatshop. Ninety-one percent of the private-sector work force, numbering 42,000, consists of foreign workers from China, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka who are too often exploited on U.S. soil.

According to the sworn testimony of U.S. officials, and human-rights and workers-rights professionals, those foreign workers—being paid barely half the U.S. minimum wage—live behind barbed wire in squalid shacks without plumbing. Toiling 12 hours a day, seven days a week, without any of the worker protections Americans are guaranteed, is tragically common.

Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., has personally visited the island factories. He has introduced legislation to raise the island minimum wage and impose federal control of immigration. With characteristic bluntness, Miller says: "Let's be clear. Foreign workers using foreign cloth under the eyes of foreign supervisors are working in a foreign-owned factory producing garments into which they sew a label that reads 'Made in the U.S.A.,' and that is the only reason these foreign fac-

tories are there—to escape U.S. duties and quotas imposed by the Congress to protect U.S. jobs."

But Miller is in the House minority. And Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, the House majority whip, who with his family was the New Year's Eve guest of the Marianas government, publicly has vowed to fight any federal takeover of Saipan's immigration and labor laws.

As seen and heard on ABC-TV News, DeLay told his host, "You are a shining light for what is happening in the Republican Party, and you represent everything that is good about what we are trying to do in America and leading the world in the free-market system."

DeLay does have a point that the foreign workers in Saipan are earning more and often under less brutal conditions than they could in their own homelands. But for those who remember the first battle of Saipan, the "Made in the U.S.A." label means standards of quality and standards of conduct. But more important than how something is made is how the people who make that something are treated, that they are free to worship and to complain and to quit.

One man who understands that well could be DeLay's worst legislative nightmare: Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, chairman of the energy and natural resources committee. Murkowski supports legislation similar to Miller's. But the conservative Alaskan has the clout to make things happen. Showing a sense of history, Murkowski rebuts defenders of the Saipan status quo: "The last time we heard a justification that economic advances would be jeopardized if workers were treated properly was shortly before Appomattox."

Frank Murkowski is right. If he is successful, the United States and humanity will win the second battle of Saipan.

CONGRATULATING THE BOYS' BASEBALL TEAM OF KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the boys' baseball team of Key West High School. The city of Key West prides itself as the home of the Ernest Hemingway Festival, Duval Street, and magnificent beaches. This year, the Conchs, the Key West High School boys' baseball team, has provided the city with another reason to burst with pride—a first place trophy in a national tournament.

Recently, the Conchs won the Pepsi All-Sport National High School Baseball Tournament with an 11–7 victory in Boca Raton over Monsignor Pace High School. This was the conclusive win which had been preceded by three other victories in five days and which gave the Conchs the much sought after title of national champions.

Although, this is not the first time that the Key West Conchs have participated in a national tournament, it is the first time they have been crowned as victors. Two years ago, the boys lost at the Dole Classic in California and last year at the USA Classic in Tennessee. This year, however, proved to be different. This season the Conchs made history for Key West High School by attaining the first place trophy in a national high school baseball tournament.

The championship roster includes: Michael Anderson, Dane Artman, Devin Butler, John Paul Castro, Lazaro Chavez, Marcus Davila, Peter Dunick, Khalil Greene, Ben Harrison, Daniel Hersey, Tommy Lambeth, Luis Leal, Aaron Marr, Juan Menendez, Sean Morales, Brian O'Connell, Stephen Parker, Troy Philipps, Tony Ramos, Eduardo Rodriguez, Billy Spottswood, Christian Twyman. Overseeing this group were Head Coach Brooks Carey, Pitching Assistant Coach Randy Sterling, First Base Assistant Coach Chris Valdez, Third Base Assistant Coach Ralph Sanchez, Athletic Director Robert Price and Principal Alma Olson.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the students of Key West High School who continue to strive to achieve excellence. On behalf of the citizens of the Twentieth District of Florida, we congratulate the Conchs on an outstanding season.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FRESNO STATE WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fresno State University Women's Softball Team on their 1998 NCAA Women's College World Series victory. The win gave Fresno State its first National Championship in any sport. The Fresno State Women's Softball Team has exhibited the dedication and hard work that it takes to become world renown athletes. I applaud the perseverance of both the team and the coaches. They are all well deserving of this recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following individuals of the Fresno State Women's Softball Team be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Laura Berg, Center field; Candice Bowlin, outfield; Kara Campbell, outfield; Angela Cervantez, 1st and 3rd base; Alicia Dowland, short stop; Jennifer Jokinen, Left field; Nina Lindenberg, 2nd base; Jaime Maxey, 1st and 3rd base; Lindsay Parker, right handed pitcher; Kim Peck, Left handed pitcher; Amanda Scott, right handed pitcher/outfielder; Jennifer Slaney, Catcher; Janna Todd, Catcher/DP; Vanessa Valenzuela, 1st base; Amber Wall, Catcher; Carolyn Wilson, Catcher/DP; Daviana Wisener, Outfield; Becky Witt, Outfield, and Margie Wright, Coach.

In the final game of the NCAA Women's College World Series on Monday, May 25, 1998, Nina Lindenberg's home run provided all the scoring as pitcher Amanda Scott limited the Arizona Wildcats to three singles. The victory ended a 29 game winning streak for Arizona, who had won the National title the previous two years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate the Fresno State University Women's Softball Team for their 1998 NCAA Women's College World Series victory. Their commitment and dedication should serve as a model for athletes the world over. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno State Women's Softball Team many more years of success.